United Nations E/CN.7/2016/L.1/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
18 March 2016

Original: English

Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Fifty-ninth session
Vienna, 14-22 March 2016

Draft report

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Addendum

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

A. Opening

1. The special segment of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held from 14 to 16 March 2016. The special segment was opened by the Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission, in its decision 57/2, with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. The Commission adopted the agenda and organization of work for its special segment, as contained in Commission decision 58/15 and the annex to document E/CN.7/2016/15. The substance of agenda item 4 was subsumed under the special segment.

2. At the opening of the fifty-ninth session and the special segment, the Commission viewed a video statement by the President of the General Assembly. Statements, including on issues relating to the preparations for the special session, were made by the representative of the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of African States), the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States) and the representative of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine).

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3. For its consideration during its special segment, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Contribution of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (UNODC/ED/2016/1);

(b) Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2016/6);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on organizational arrangements for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 (E/CN.7/2016/15).

B. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

4. At the [...] meetings, from [...] to [...] March 2016, the Commission considered item 3 of the agenda for the special segment, entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016". Sub-items (a) to (c) of agenda item 3 were considered jointly by the Commission in the format of a general debate.

5. Statements were made by the representatives of Thailand, Colombia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Czech Republic, Afghanistan, the Russian Federation, Ecuador, Peru, the United States of America, Singapore, Mexico, India, Portugal, Brunei Darussalam, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Germany, France, Tajikistan, Spain, Uruguay, Nigeria, Poland, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Jordan, Brazil, El Salvador, Philippines, Romania, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, Guatemala, Algeria, Turkey, Kuwait, Chile, Cuba, Qatar, Belgium, Morocco, Tunisia, the Sudan, Iraq, Mozambique, Indonesia, Japan, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Croatia, Viet Nam, China, Israel, Honduras, Egypt, Namibia, Slovenia, Kenya, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Hungary, Switzerland, Yemen, the Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan and Angola.

6. The observer for the Holy See made a statement. The representative of Singapore made a statement on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The observers for the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the League of Arab States and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe made statements. The observers for the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Union of South American Nations and the African Union also made statements. The observers for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies made statements.

7. The observers for the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the Civil Society Task Force for UNGASS 2016, Active — Sobriety, Friendship and Peace, Europe

Against Drugs, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals, the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network and Penal Reform International made statements.

8. Representatives of the Youth Forum also made a statement.

9. Many speakers emphasized the significant efforts undertaken by the Commission in leading the preparatory process and commended the efforts made by and the leadership of the Board tasked with the preparations for the special session. The inclusiveness of the preparatory process for the special session was welcomed by several speakers.

10. Speakers emphasized that the special session would provide a key opportunity for the international community to take stock of the achievements of the international drug control system to date and to review progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in addressing the world drug problem.

11. Many speakers reaffirmed their commitment to the effective implementation of the three international drug control conventions, as well as the importance of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. It was noted by several speakers that there was sufficient scope and flexibility within the conventions to accommodate different national and regional approaches, and a number of speakers noted that there was no "one-size-fits-all" solution to addressing the world drug problem. Many speakers also referred to the importance of other relevant international legal instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to addressing the world drug problem. It was noted by several speakers that the fundamental goal of the international drug control conventions was to ensure the health and welfare of humankind.

12. It was stressed that the world drug problem remained a major and complex challenge for the international community that gave rise to serious public health consequences and required a balanced, integrated and comprehensive approach on the basis of common and shared responsibility, in accordance with the international drug control conventions. A number of speakers referred to new approaches, visions and realities, noted that it should be possible for countries to develop their own drug control policies and that an open dialogue, taking into account lessons learned and experiences of States, was needed.

13. Several speakers noted that the special session would allow the international community to elaborate on the significant challenges in the context of the national, regional and global responses to the world drug problem and to identify effective drug policies.

14. Many speakers recognized the leading role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the United Nations organ with the prime responsibility for drug control matters, including in the preparatory process for the special session, as well as the role of UNODC as the leading entity in the United Nations system for assisting Member States in countering the world drug problem.

15. Several speakers highlighted the importance of the adoption, on 25 September 2015, of General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", stressed its importance in the context of addressing the world drug problem and noted that, in setting the agenda towards 2019, the special session should undertake concrete actions to contribute to achieving the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda.

16. Several speakers highlighted the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law and right to health and of a people-centred approach to addressing the world drug problem.

17. Several speakers referred to the importance of ensuring the proportionality of sentencing and alternatives to conviction or punishment, especially for persons who committed minor, non-violent drug-related offences. Several speakers reaffirmed their strong opposition to the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including for drug-related offences, and called for a moratorium on the death penalty. Other speakers stressed that the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States should be fully respected and, in that regard, further stressed that every country had the sovereign right and responsibility to decide and implement the most appropriate approach to addressing the world drug problem.

18. The importance of further enhancing efforts to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, trafficking and abuse, was highlighted by many speakers.

19. Speakers called for a balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies, policies and laws, which also included efforts to mainstream the gender perspective as well as address the specific needs of children and young people. The crucial need for evidence-based, coordinated and long-term prevention programmes, strategies and measures, with a focus on young people, families, schools and other social settings, was stressed.

20. Reference was made to the increasing recognition by many States that drug addiction was also a public health rather than solely a law enforcement issue and that States should promote policies based on development, public health and human rights. Several speakers stressed the need to guarantee access to comprehensive, evidence-based drug demand reduction services that included primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, recovery and social reintegration. A number of speakers referred to the effectiveness of risk and harm reduction measures and recommended their implementation to States.

21. Several speakers expressed their concern regarding the legalization and decriminalization of certain drugs in some regions of the world and noted that they were contrary to the spirit and the letter of the three international drug control conventions, while also hindering ongoing efforts to combat the world drug problem. Other speakers noted that it was every country's sovereign right and responsibility to design and implement its own approaches and policies to drug control.

22. Several speakers stressed the need to urgently address the linkages between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons and trafficking in firearms, as well as money-laundering, corruption, cybercrime, violence and terrorism and its financing. The threat posed by drug trafficking to stability, safety and security was also recognized, as was the need to tackle illicit financial flows arising from drug trafficking and other forms of crime.

23. The importance of reinforcing regional and international cooperation in the areas of exchange of intelligence and information, including on best practices relating to drug control strategies, as well as mutual legal assistance and extradition, was emphasised by several speakers.

24. Appreciation was expressed for regional cooperation frameworks, and the need for greater cooperation between subregional and regional cooperation networks was noted. Reference was made by several speakers to the Declaration of Santo Domingo adopted by the third Ministerial Meeting on the World Drug Problem of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. Other speakers referred to the position statement adopted at the fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Drug Matters.

25. The rapid emergence and continued proliferation of new psychoactive substances, the threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants and the risk that they posed to public health was acknowledged. The need for innovative, balanced and evidence-based national and international approaches and frameworks to dealing with new psychoactive substances was stressed. Reference was also made to the need to further strengthen and coordinate the strategy on the control of precursors diverted for illicit use.

26. A number of speakers called for increased technical and financial assistance to transit and developing countries to enhance their capacities to address the world drug problem, and called on UNODC to continue mobilizing resources in that regard.

27. The importance of alternative development, including preventive alternative development, and the need for investment by donors and affected countries in such programmes, was highlighted. Reference was made to the outcome of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Bangkok from 19 to 24 November 2015.

28. The Commission and UNODC were encouraged to seek and strengthen synergies with other United Nations specialized agencies, organs, entities and relevant international organizations, in accordance with their mandate. The important role of INCB in addressing the world drug problem was noted. Speakers stressed the importance of participatory approaches and cooperation and the role of civil society, the scientific community, academia and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of drug policies at the local, national and international levels.

C. Other business

29. [...]

D. Outcome and closure of the special segment

30. [...]